

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 1-10 and add new claims 11 and 12 as follows:

~~1. (Amended) An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:~~

~~an image pickup unit which picks up an image and converts the picked-up image into an electric signal;~~

5 ~~a memory adapted to store the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;~~

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a determining section which makes a determination of whether or not the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit has a proper brightness;~~

10 ~~a controller which controls the memory to store the electric signal used by the determining section for making the determination if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper"; and~~

15 ~~a light emitter which is controlled by the controller to emit light in timing with an image pickup timing of the image pickup device.~~

2. (Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein when the result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", the controller obtains a light quantity of the light emitter which is assumed to be "proper" based on the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit, dispatches an

5 - image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, controls the light emitter to emit light in timing with the image pickup timing.

3. (Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein the controller prohibits storing in the memory of the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit when the result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper".

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4. (Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 3, wherein when an electric signal produced by the image pickup unit in timing with a first light emission of the light emitter is "not proper", the controller controls the memory to store electric signals converted by the image pickup unit in timing with second and subsequent light emissions of the light emitter.

5. (Amended) An image pickup device equipped with a strobe, comprising:

an image pickup unit which picks up an image of an object and converts the image into an electric signal;

5 a memory adapted to store the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;

a determining section in a CPU which makes a determination of whether or not the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit is a proper image;

10 - a stroboscopic light emitter which emits light of a desired intensity in synchronism with an operation of the image pickup unit; and

15 a controller in the CPU which controls the memory to store the electric signal used by the determining section for the determination if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper", and which computes an intensity of the light emitted from the stroboscopic light emitter if the result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", wherein the intensity of light is based on the electric signal used by the determining section for the determination and is estimated to enable the result of the determination to become "proper", and wherein the controller again instructs the image pickup unit to pick up an image and also instructs the stroboscopic light emitter to emit light in synchronism with the image pickup unit.

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6. (Amended) An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit which picks up an image and converts the picked-up image into an electric signal;

5 a memory adapted to store the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit;

a determining section which makes a determination of whether or not the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit has a proper brightness;

10 a controller which controls the memory to store the electric signal used by the determining section for the determination if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper";

15 a light emitter which is controlled by the controller to emit light in synchronism with an image pickup operation of the image pickup unit; and

an auto-focussing unit for driving an optical system to focus on an object.

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7. (Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 6, wherein when the result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", the controller obtains a light quantity of the light emitter which is assumed to be "proper" based on the electric signal produced by the image pickup unit, dispatches an image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, controls the light emitter to emit light in timing with the image pickup timing.

8. (Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the controller obtains a light emission quantity of the light emitter by referring to information of a distance to the object obtained by an auto-focussing operation of the auto-focussing unit.

9. (Amended) An image pickup device according to claim 7, wherein the controller controls the light emitter to carry out a first light emission in a light emission quantity of the light emitter set by a user operation.

10. (Amended) An image pickup method using a light emitter, comprising:

carrying out a first light emission of a light emitter, and carrying out a first image pickup in timing with the first light emission;

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determining a brightness of a state an image picked up by the first image pickup operation;

storing the first picked-up image if a result of the determination is "at or above a predetermined value";

10 determining a second light emission value of the light emitter if the result of the determination is "less than a predetermined value";

carrying out a second light emission of the light emitter based on the second light emission value, and carrying out a 15 second image pickup in timing with the second light emission; and storing the second picked-up image.

11. (New) An image pickup device according to claim 1, further comprising a shutter button which enables a user to instruct the image pickup device to perform an image pickup

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operation, and wherein the controller controls the image pickup
5 unit to execute the image pickup operation in response to an
operation of the shutter button by the user.

12. (New) 12. (New) An image pickup device according to claim 6,
further comprising a shutter button which enables a user to
instruct the image pickup device to perform an image pickup
operation, and wherein the controller controls the image pickup
5 unit to execute the image pickup operation in response to an
operation of the shutter button by the user.
